DARK HORSE COMICS
MASS EFFECT
ONE-SHOT
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FROM THE LEAD WRITER OF MASS EFFECT 3
MASS EFFECT™
BioWare
INCURSION
INQUISITION
MAC WALTERS
EDUARDO FRANCISCO
JEAN DIAZ
MICHAEL ATIYEH

# MASS EFFECT™

## INCURSION INQUISITION

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EDUARDO FRANCISCO

INQUISITION ART
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OMEGA. ONE WEEK BEFORE THE COLLECTORS ATTACK THE NORMANDY AND KILL COMMANDER SHEPARD.
MASS EFFECT
INCURSION
script MAC WALTERS
art EDUARDO FRANCISCO
colors MICHAEL ATIYEH
letters MICHAEL HEISLER
THE DARK HEART OF THE MOST NEFARIOUS CITY IN KNOWN SPACE. AFTERLIFE IS THE PLAYGROUND OF THE WORST THE GALAXY HAS TO OFFER—AND HOME OF THEIR DE FACTO LEADER—
ARIA T'LOAK.
AFTERLIFE
BUT EVEN THE MOST RUTHLESS LEADERS HAVE LIMITS.
AND EVEN THE DARKEST PLACES CAN GET A LITTLE BIT DARKER.
I THINK YOU'RE OVERREACTING, BOSS.

REPORTS ARE TELLING US IT'S JUST SOME BLUE SUN MERCS, MAYBE SOME SLAVERS-- NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE.
THE REPORTS ARE WRONG.

UH... YOU GOT NEW INTEL? WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOT SURE. BUT OMEGA'S MY STATION. I KNOW WHEN SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

BESIDES, IT'S GOOD TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE EVERY NOW AND THEN--
-- REMIND EVERYONE WHY I'M IN CHARGE.

YOU'VE GOT YOUR SPECIMENS. NOW HAND OVER THE PAYMENT.
DAMN.
COLLECTORS? WHAT ARE THE BLUE SUNS DOING WITH THEM?
CHANGE OF PLANS. NO ONE LEAVES HERE ALIVE.
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL WHEN I HIT THE FLOOR --
-- SEND THEM TO HELL!

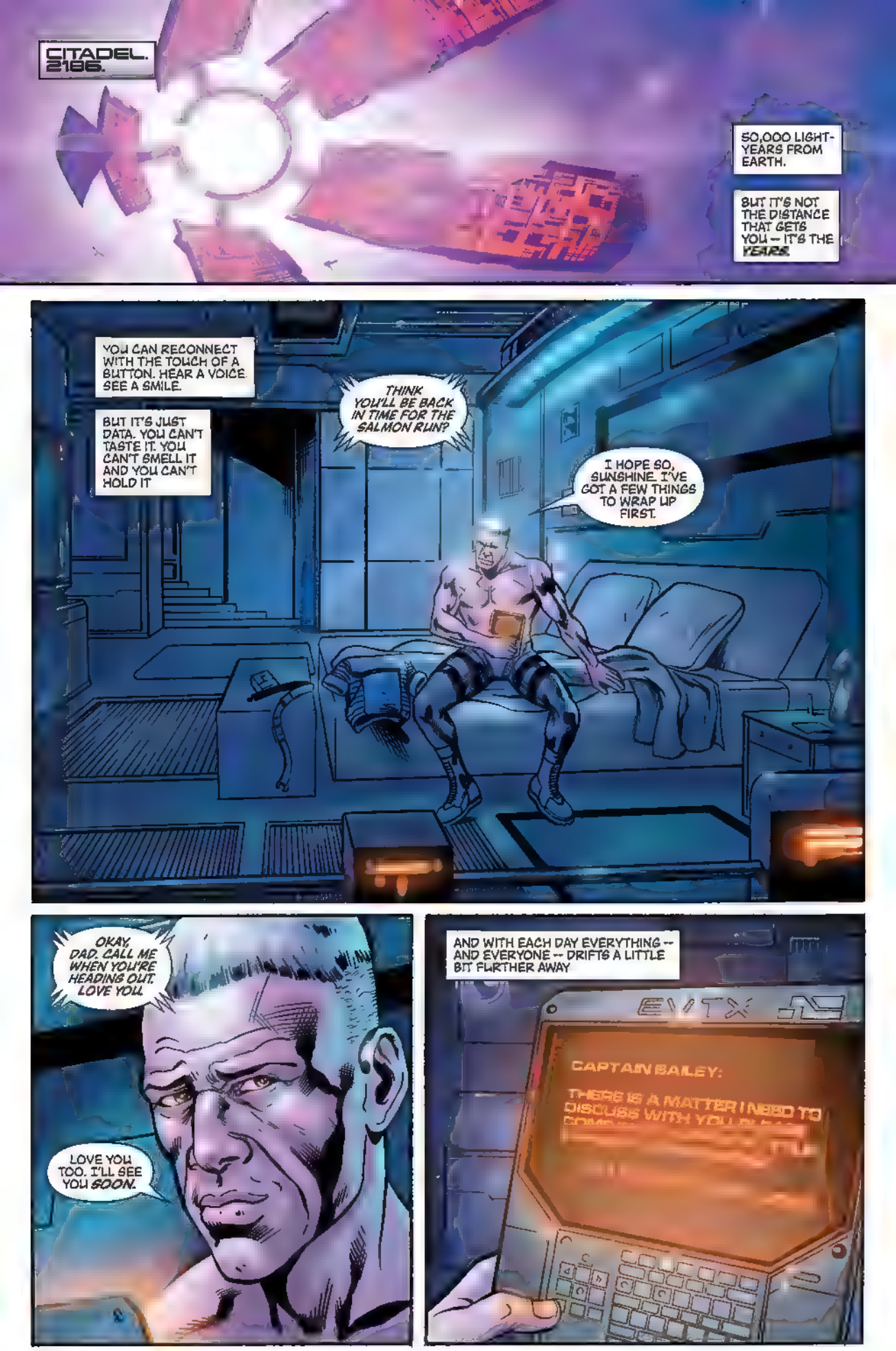
KA-BOOM!
AMBUSH!
FIRE!
ELIMINATE THEM!

BZZZZZZ
MAKE YOUR MOVE.
SHAZAK
PROTECT ARIA!
COVERING FIRE! FOCUS ON THE BIG ONE!

UFF!
YOU ARE INSIGNIFICANT.
MAYBE—
—BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
KA-DOOOM

NOBODY SCREWS WITH ARIA!
NOBODY...
YOU OKAY?
REPORT.
WE LOST ONE MAN. THE HUMANS AND COLLECTORS ARE ALL DEAD. THERE'S A COUPLE SUNS STILL ALIVE.
FINISH OFF THE BLUE SUNS.
AFTER YOU FIND OUT EVERYTHING THEY KNEW ABOUT THIS DEAL.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY THIS HAPPENED.

AFTERLIFE.
IT'S DONE.
ANYTHING USEFUL IN THE DATA I SENT YOU?
HORIZON: 643,215
OMEGA: 853,243
FREEDOM'S PROGRESS: 812,810
CITADEL: 2,491,395
EDEN PRIME: 3,962,450
TERRA NOVA: 4,145,412
EARTH: 11,490,225,106
POPULATION TOTALS.
HUMAN ONLY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?
IT MEANS THE COLLECTORS ARE AFTER MUCH MORE THAN A FEW SLAVES.
AND HUMANITY HAS MADE A DANGEROUS ENEMY.
THE END


CITADEL.
2186.
50,000 LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH.
BUT IT'S NOT THE DISTANCE THAT GETS YOU -- IT'S THE *YEARS.*
YOU CAN RECONNECT WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON. HEAR A VOICE. SEE A SMILE.
BUT IT'S JUST DATA. YOU CAN'T TASTE IT. YOU CAN'T SMELL IT AND YOU CAN'T HOLD IT
*THINK YOU'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR THE SALMON RUN?*
I HOPE SO, SUNSHINE. I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS TO WRAP UP FIRST.
*OKAY, DAD. CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE HEADING OUT. LOVE YOU.*
LOVE YOU TOO. I'LL SEE YOU *SOON.*
AND WITH EACH DAY EVERYTHING -- AND EVERYONE -- DRIFTS A LITTLE BIT FURTHER AWAY
EVITX
CAPTAIN BAILEY:
THERE IS A MATTER I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU

THE PRESIDIUM. NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE UP HERE WITH THE WELL-TO-DO AND THE POLITICIANS FLOATING ABOUT IN THEIR SHINING CITY. IT'S NOT NATURAL. BRIGHT. CLEAN. STERILE.
CAPTAIN BAILEY COUNCILOR UDINA IS EXPECTING YOU.
NEARLY TWO DECADES ON THIS STATION, NOBODY'S EVER ASKED ME TO COME TO THE PRESIDIUM. LET ALONE A COUNCILOR. WHY NOW?
AND WHY UDINA? WHAT'S HE WANT WITH A BEAT COP? I BET HE'S NEVER EVEN BEEN DOWN TO MY DISTRICT.
CAPTAIN. THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT. C-SEC HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
WE HAVE INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTING THERE ARE FACTIONS WITHIN CITADEL SECURITY THAT HAVE AIDED AND ABETTED ENEMIES OF THE COUNCIL.
THAT'S A SERIOUS ACCUSATION.
IT GETS WORSE.
OF COURSE IT DOES.

T GOES R GHT TO THE TOP.
EXECUTOR PALLIN? WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?
I'M NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING. I'M TELLING YOU THE HEAD OF C-SEC IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.
WHAT THE HELL? WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
TWO REASONS. FIRST, YOUR RECORD IS CLEAN, BUT NOT TOO CLEAN. IN SHORT— I CAN TRUST YOU.
SECOND PALLIN'S BEEN SEEN COMING AND GOING FROM AN OFFICE IN YOUR DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT'S IN THERE.
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS IN HERE. REPORT BACK DIRECTLY TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE. UNDERSTOOD?
I DON'T THINK I'M THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THIS...
YOU JUST NEED TO GATHER THE EVIDENCE. LET ME WORRY ABOUT THE REST.
AND, CAPTAIN. I'D TAKE YOUR SIDEARM WITH YOU. JUST IN CASE.

*JUST IN CASE* — THE WORST THREE WORDS TO EVER COME OUT OF A POLITICIAN'S MOUTH FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY — *INVESTIGATE THE EXECUTOR.*
DAMN IT. PALLIN MIGHT BE A STIFF, OLD, TURIAN BASTARD — BUT A CRIMINAL? THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE. HE COULDN'T BE MORE UPTIGHT — MORE *"BY THE RULES"* — IF HE WERE A GODDAMN A.I.
AND WHY HERE? THERE'S A THOUSAND PLACES ON THIS DAMNED STATION WITH MORE PRIVACY. PALLIN'S TOO SMART TO DO ANYTHING WHERE HE COULD BE SEEN.
OR MAYBE NOT
LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS WERE AFTER THE SAME THING AS ME.
AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU AFTER, CAPTAIN?

I WAS TOLD YOU WERE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING YOU SHOULDN'T BE, EXECUTOR. DIDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST — BUT IT LOOKS LIKE UDINA WAS RIGHT.
GIVE ME THAT DATAPAD.
WHY'D YOU DO IT? THEY WERE GOOD MEN. THEY WERE *MY* MEN.
THE DATAPAD.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE MINDFUL OF THE COMPANY YOU KEEP. UDINA CANNOT BE TRUSTED.
HE SAID THE SAME ABOUT YOU. BUT I DIDN'T FIND A PICTURE OF *HIM* CLUTCHED IN THE HANDS OF A DEAD C-SEC OFFICER.
LIES! FABRICATIONS. ALL OF IT.
EXPLAIN IT TO YOUR OFFICERS WHEN THEY COME TO PICK YOU UP.
I WON'T TAKE THE FALL FOR THIS!

DROP IT.
YOU AND LIDINA WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
THAT'S NOT FOR US TO DECIDE.
WRONG!

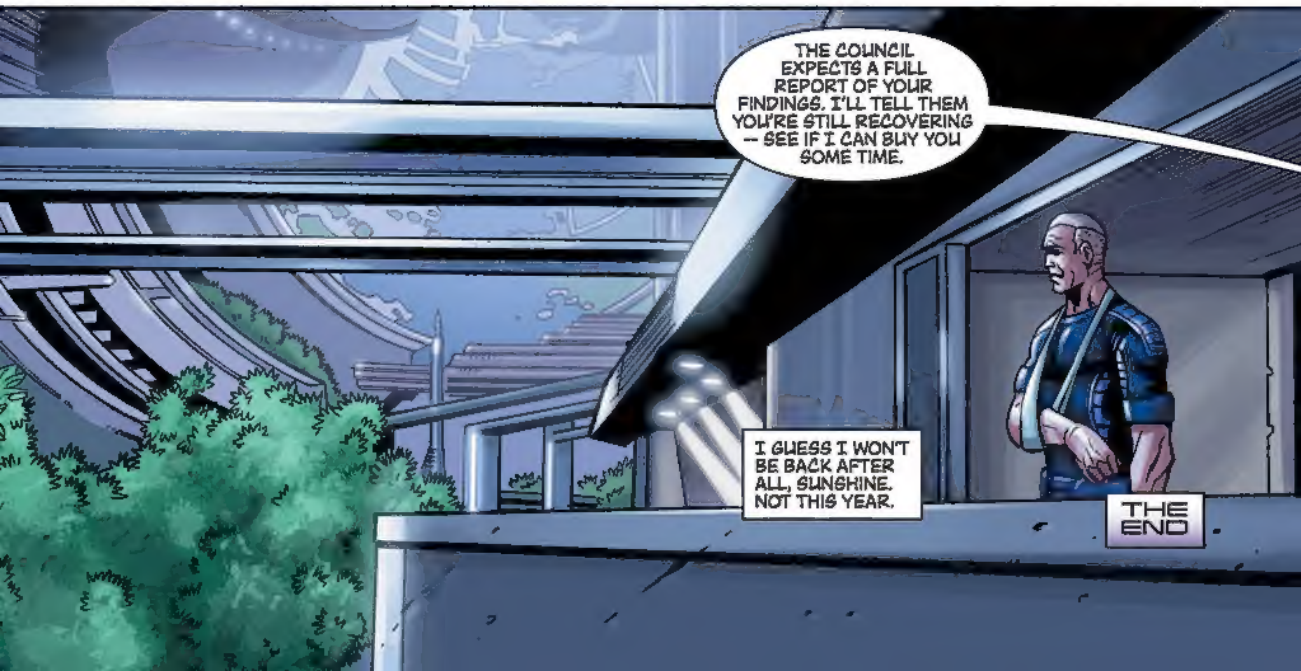
NOBODY DECIDES MY FATE BUT ME.
NOBODY.
KRAKOWWW!
FATE... IS A BITCH, EXECUTOR.
I DON'T GET IT, PALLIN. YOU COULD'VE KILLED ME WHEN I FIRST CAME IN. THIS IS SLOPPY. WRONG. YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS.
AT LEAST I THOUGHT YOU WERE.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE HE WOULDN'T COME PEACEFULLY...BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO. YOU DID YOUR JOB.
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S BOTHERING ME. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT. PALLIN WAS AS SHOCKED AS I WAS TO SEE THAT INFORMATION.

OF COURSE HE WAS *SHOCKED*. HE NEVER EXPECTED TO BE CAUGHT. BUT THE FACTS DON'T LIE.
I DIDN'T SURVIVE THIS LONG AS A COP WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO READ PEOPLE. AND I'D BET MY GOOD ARM THAT PALLIN WAS INNOCENT -- OR NOT AS GUILTY AS THE *FACTS* SUGGEST.
THAT'S FOR THE INVESTIGATORS TO DETERMINE. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST. GET THAT ARM READY FOR ACTION.
ACTUALLY, I WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO EARTH. I'VE GOT SOME TIME OFF COMING...

EARTH MIGHT BE A LITTLE FAR RIGHT NOW. YOU'VE GOT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, *COMMANDER* BAILEY.
I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB...YOU SAID SO YOURSELF. I DON'T NEED A *REWARD*.

CONSIDER IT AN ORDER. WE'RE SHORT ONE EXECUTOR, WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT POSITIONS TO FILL.


THE COUNCIL EXPECTS A FULL REPORT OF YOUR FINDINGS. I'LL TELL THEM YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING -- SEE IF I CAN BUY YOU SOME TIME.
I GUESS I WON'T BE BACK AFTER ALL, SUNSHINE. NOT THIS YEAR.
THE END